

**REMARKS**

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that this Amendment is submitted Simultaneously with filing of a Request for Continuing Examination.

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It is noted that claims 1-18 are rejected over the patent to Grube in view of the patent to Hlinsky. Also, a question was raised by the Examiner in the sense of 35 U.S.C. 112 with respect to phrasing of "means for".

With the present Amendment applicant first of all defined the corresponding first, second and third means as means for providing, means for increasing, and means for reducing, thus satisfying the Examiner's requirement. It is believed that the formal rejection should be considered as no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for the rejection of the claims over the art, applicants amended claims 1 and 9, the

broadest independent claims, and also added claims 19 and 20 which depends on claims 1 and 9 correspondingly. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 9, 19 and 20 clearly and patentably distinguish the present invention from the prior art applied by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 9 specifically define that in the washer and in the fastener provided in the washer, the body of the washer has first means on its radially inner surface for providing a friction between the body and the bolt, second means provided on a second axially outer surface of the body for increasing friction of this outer face so as to increase friction between the washer and the object and to impede the body from turning, and third means provided on the first axially outer face surface of the body for reducing a friction of the first axially outer face surface so as to reduce friction between the washer and the nut and to reduce dragging of the body into turning by the nut, so that when the nut is turned to displace the bolt in the axial direction the body is not dragged into turning by the nut because of the third means and is impeded from turning by the second means, and the body washer the bolt from turning by the first means to displace it in an axial direction.

It is emphasized that it is the cooperation of the first, second and third means that provides the highly advantageous results in completely

ensuring that the washer does not turn and the bolt does not turn during turning of the nut, for providing a displacement of the bolt in the axial direction only.

Turning now to the references and in particular to the patent to Gruube, this reference does not disclose the body of a washer which has a first turning resistant surface configured to hold the bolt from turning. However, even if the thread of one of the parts of the device disclosed in this reference can be considered as a first turning resistant surface, this reference does not teach the other important features of the present invention which operate in interaction and interjunction with the first turning resistant surface, namely the second means which increase the friction of one axial outer face surface of the washer and third means which reduce a friction of the other axial end face surface of the washer. Thus, this reference does not teach the new features of the present invention as defined in claims 1 and 9.

The patent to Hlinsky discloses a fastener assembly in which the clamp washer 24 has a roughened clamp surface 82. This reference however does not teach the main feature of the present invention, namely a first turning resistant surface which prevents the bolt from turning. The present invention however relies exclusively on a washer having the first

turning resistant surface which prevents the bolt from turning and allows it to displace axially. A person skilled in the art would not look for any solutions related to this issue in the patent to Hlinsky and definitely would not combine the patent to Hlinsky with the patent to Grube for finding such solutions.

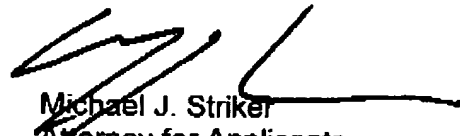
Finally, the patent to Hlinsky does not disclose another axial outer face surface provided with means for reducing its friction. The outer face surface which is opposite to the surface 82 of the washer disclosed in the patent to Hlinsky does not have any additional means for reducing its friction. Thus, this feature is also not disclosed in the patent to Grube. Therefore, any combination with this reference would lead only to such a washer and a fastener provided with the washer in which there would be no axial outer face surface (which in operation interacts with the nut) provided means for reducing its friction.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is believed that claims 1 and 9 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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